

CLAIMS

1. A method for controlling exchange of private information associated with a client device, said method comprising:

5 (a) receiving a request from the client device;

(b) determining whether a privacy agreement is needed to respond to the request;

(c) negotiating a privacy agreement that governs the exchange of the private information when said determining (b) determines that a privacy

10 agreement is needed; and

(d) thereafter producing a response to the request.

2. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the private information includes location information of the client device.

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3. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said producing (d) comprises:

(d1) receiving the private information associated with the client device; and

(d2) producing the response to the request based at least in part on the 20 private information.

4. A method as recited in claim 3, wherein the private information includes location information of the client device.

5. A method as recited in claim 4, wherein the client device is associated with a network, and

wherein the location information is at least one of client-provided and network-provided.

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6. A method as recited in claim 3, wherein said method is performed on a server.

7. A method as recited in claim 6, wherein the private information is

10 attached to the request.

8. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the client device is a wireless device.

15 9. A method for exchanging private information associated with a client device to a server device via a proxy server, said method comprising:

establishing an authorization agreement that enables the proxy server to negotiate privacy agreements with server devices on behalf of the client device;

20 receiving a request at the proxy server;

receiving a proposed privacy agreement from the server device associated with the request;

accepting the proposed privacy agreement as a privacy agreement by the proxy server for the client device when in accord with the authorization agreement; and

providing the private information to the server device after establishment of the privacy agreement.

10. A method as recited in claim 9,

5 wherein said method further comprises:

negotiating the privacy agreement by the proxy server for the client device when not in accord with the authorization agreement, and

wherein said providing the private information to the server device is performed after said accepting of the proposed privacy agreement as the 10 privacy agreement or after said negotiating of the privacy agreement.

11. A method as recited in claim 9, wherein the private information includes location information of the client device.

15 12. A method as recited in claim 11, wherein the client device is associated with a network, and

wherein the location information is at least one of client-provided and network-provided.

20 13. A method as recited in claim 11, wherein the request is received at the proxy server and the response is produced by the server device.

14. A method as recited in claim 13, wherein the request includes the private information associated with the client device.

15. A method as recited in claim 14, wherein said providing operates to provide the private information to the server device after said accepting of the proposed privacy agreement as the privacy agreement or after said negotiating of the privacy agreement.

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16. A method as recited in claim 15, wherein said providing operates to refuse to provide the private information to the server device when both the proposed privacy agreement is not accepted and negotiating of the privacy agreement is unsuccessful.

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17. A method as recited in claim 9, wherein said method further comprises:

determining whether an existing privacy agreement already exists for the server device and the client device; and

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bypassing said receiving of the proposed privacy agreement and said accepting of the proposed privacy agreement when said determining operates to determine that an existing privacy agreement already exists for the server device and the client device.

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18. A method as recited in claim 17, wherein said determining of an existing privacy agreement already exists comprises:

identifying an existing agreement between the server device and the client device, the existing agreement having a predetermined coverage; and

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determining whether the request is covered by the predetermined coverage of the identified existing agreement.

19. A method for controlling exchange of private information associated with a client device supported by a carrier network infrastructure, said method comprising:

5 (a) receiving a request from the client device, the request being directed to a server device;

(b) determining whether a privacy agreement is needed to respond to the request;

(c) determining whether the server device is authorized to receive the private information associated with the client device when said determining

10 (b) determines that a privacy agreement is needed; and

(d) providing the private information to the server device associated with the request when said determining (c) determines that the server device is authorized to receive the private information associated with the client device.

15 20. A method as recited in claim 19, wherein the client device is a wireless client device, and

wherein the private information includes location information of the client device.

20 21. A method as recited in claim 19, wherein said method further comprises:

(e) thereafter producing a response to the request at the server device.

22. A method as recited in claim 21, wherein said producing (e) comprises:

25 (e1) receiving the private information associated with the client device; and

(e2) producing the response to the request based at least in part on the private information.

23. A method as recited in claim 22, wherein the private information
5 includes location information of the client device.

24. A method as recited in claim 19, wherein the request includes a URL,
and

wherein said determining (c) comprises:

10 (c1) comparing the URL of the request with a list of authorized URLs; and

(c2) determining that the server device is authorized to receive the private information associated with the client device when said comparing
(c1) determines that the URL of the request is found within the list of
15 authorized URLs.

25. A system for controlling information exchange between a wireless client device and server devices, the wireless client device being supported by a wireless network, said system comprising:

20 a proxy server device operatively connected between the wireless client device and the server device, said proxy server device manages distribution of private information associated with the wireless client device to the server devices, said proxy server device includes at least

25 a storage area, said storage area stores information received from at least one of the wireless client device and from the wireless network;
and

5 a privacy manager, said privacy manager operates to restrict the release of the information received from the wireless client device and the wireless network to the one or more of the server devices unless a suitable privacy agreement governing the use of the information is in place for the one or more server devices.

26. A system as recited in claim 25, wherein the information received from at least one of the wireless client device and the wireless network comprises location information associated with the location of the wireless client device.

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27. A system as recited in claim 25,
wherein the information received from the wireless client device and the wireless network comprises location information associated with the location of the wireless client device, and

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wherein said system further comprises:

a location manager, said location manager performs a reconciliation and/or canonicalization process on the location information received from the wireless client device and the wireless network to produce a determined location.

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28. A system as recited in claim 27, wherein said privacy manager operates to restrict the release of the determined location to the one or more of the server devices unless a suitable privacy agreement governing the use of the determined location is in place for the one or more server devices.

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29. A system as recited in claim 28, wherein the suitable privacy agreement is provided in a markup language.

30. A system as recited in claim 28, wherein said privacy manager can further negotiate with the one or more server devices to establish a suitable privacy agreement.

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31. A system as recited in claim 25, wherein said privacy manager can further negotiate with the one or more server devices to establish a suitable privacy agreement.

10 32. A system as recited in claim 25, wherein the information received from at least one of the wireless client device and the wireless network comprises subscriber information associated with the subscriber of the wireless client device.

15 33. A system as recited in claim 25, wherein the information includes private information and non-private information, and

wherein said privacy manager restricts access to the private information but not the non-private information.

20 34. A computer readable medium including computer program code for controlling exchange of private information associated with a client device, said computer readable medium comprising:

computer program code for receiving a request from the client device;
and

25 computer program code for negotiating a privacy agreement that governs the exchange of the private information.

35. A computer readable medium including computer program code for exchanging private information associated with a client device to a server device via a proxy server, said computer readable medium comprising:

5 computer program code for establishing an authorization agreement that enables the proxy server to negotiate privacy agreements with server devices on behalf of the client device;

computer program code for receiving a request at the proxy server;

10 computer program code for receiving a proposed privacy agreement from the server device associated with the request;

computer program code for accepting the proposed privacy agreement as a privacy agreement by the proxy server for the client device when in accord with the authorization agreement; and

15 computer program code for providing the private information to the server device after establishment of the privacy agreement.

36. A computer readable medium including computer program code for controlling exchange of private information associated with a client device supported by a carrier network infrastructure, said computer readable medium comprising:

computer program code for receiving a request from the client device, the request being directed to a server device;

25 computer program code for determining whether the server device is authorized to receive the private information associated with the client device; and

computer program code for providing the private information to the server device associated with the request when said determining determines

whether the server device is authorized to receive the private information associated with the client device determines that the server device is authorized to receive the private information associated with the client device.

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